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ACTION DEPARTMENT 55; INFORMATION LONDON 16, PARIS 17, MOSCOW 9, BERLIN 19

DESPITE RATHER OFF-HAND TREATMENT OF BERLIN QUESTION BY MOST GERMAN LEADERS IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, IN WHICH CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE BUT NO DRIVING INTEREST IS DISPLAYED, IS SENSE THAT POPULACE IN WEST GERMANY IS DEEPLY CONCERNED RE FATE OF CITY. THERE HAS, OF COURSE, ALWAYS BEEN INCREASED NERVOUSNESS WHEN BERLIN HAS COME TO FORE, BUT IN PAST THIS HAS BEEN MORE AN ANXIETY RE DISTURBANCE OF OVERALL SITUATION THAN PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR BERLIN ITSELF, AND HAS GENERALLY TAKEN FORM OF WORRY RE POSITION OF WESTERN POWERS AND HESITANCE AS TO WHAT FEDREP ATTITUDE SHOULD BE.

AS BERLIN CRISIS NOW APPROACHES, HOWEVER, THERE IS EXTRAORDINARY DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE IN FIRMNESS OF WESTERN POWERS IN GENERAL AND US IN PARTICULAR, COUPLED WITH QUIET ACCEPTANCE OF FACT THAT GERMANS, TOO, HAVE NO REPEAT NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND BERLIN. IN OTHER WORDS, NERVOUSNESS OF PREVIOUS CRISES HAS BEEN REPLACED BY DETERMINATION TO HOLD ON TO WEST BERLIN. ONLY FEW VOICES, NOTABLY THAT OF MENDE, HAVE BEEN RAISED IN FAVOR OF NEGOTIATIONS AS POSSIBLE WAY OUT, AND CERTAINLY NO CLAMOR EXISTS ON PART OF PUBLIC GENERALLY FOR THIS COURSE.

THIS RENEWED ATTACHMENT TO BERLIN, WHICH I HAVE ALLUDED TO IN PAST AS PROBABLY ARISING FROM SOUNDER APPRECIATION THAT RE-UNIFICATION IS LONG-TERM GOAL, IS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT AMONG YOUNGER ELEMENT OF POPULACE. THIS FACT ALONE, IT SEEMS TO ME, TENDS EMPHASIS TO OBVIOUS CONCLUSION THAT OUTCOME FOR BERLIN CARRIES WITH IT PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS RE FUTURE POLICY OF WEST GERMANS.

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